

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A contents distribution support system comprising a contents server and a plurality of terminals connected to the contents server via a network to allow contents to be distributed to the terminal from the contents server and further allow the contents to be distributed to another terminal from the terminal that received the distribution,

wherein the contents server comprises a storing section that stores information on the terminal that received the distribution of the contents, and any one of terminals stored in the storing section is selected to distribute the stored contents to another terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) A contents distribution support system comprising
a contents server [and],

a plurality of terminals connected to the contents server via a network to allow contents to be distributed to the terminal from the contents server and further allow the contents to be distributed to another terminal from the terminal that received the distribution, and

an amount setting section that fixes an amount to be subtracted or added,

wherein the contents server comprises a storing section that stores information on the terminal that received the distribution of the contents, and a section that selects a terminal stored in said storing section based on information concerning distribution state from said contents server, and [causes] enables the selected terminal to distribute the contents to another terminal,

wherein a storage media having at least one of a read-only storage area and a rewritable storage area is used, a program for gaining access to the contents server via the network to the read-only storage area, a storing section of a prepaid amount is provided in the rewritable storage area and an arbitrary amount is subtracted or added from/to the prepaid amount according to the distribution or reception of the contents, and the subtracted or added amount is stored in the storing section of the prepaid amount, and

wherein the contents server includes a communication monitoring section that monitors a communication state between the selected one terminal and another terminal, and when interruption of the communication is judged by the communication monitoring section, selection is executed again based on information on the terminal stored in the storing section, and the amount setting

section fixes the amount to be added by dividing the amount according to a contents size before the communication is interrupted and a contents size after the communication is interrupted.

3. (Withdrawn) The contents distribution support system according to claim 2, wherein the storing section grasps identification information on the terminal that received the distribution of the contents and information on a communication state of the terminal to store these information, and distribution to another terminal is executed in such a manner that a terminal similar to the communication state is selected.

4. (Withdrawn) The contents distribution support system according to claim 2, wherein the contents server includes a communication monitoring section that monitors the communication state between the selected one terminal and another terminal, and when interruption of the communication is judged by the communication monitoring section, selection is executed again based on information on the terminal stored in the storing section.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim [6] 2, wherein the amount fixed by the amount setting section is set according to a frequency of the distribution or reception of the contents or a distribution time period of the contents.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim [6] 2, wherein the read-only storage area stores a program for allowing the distributed contents to be reproduced.

10. (Original) The contents distribution support system according to claim 2, wherein the contents server includes a section that obtains information indicating the distribution state executed by each terminal.

11. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 10, further comprising an accounting storing section that subtracts or adds an arbitrary amount from/to [the] a prepaid amount according to the distribution or reception of the contents, and stores the subtracted or added amount.

12. (Original) The contents distribution support system according to claim 11, further comprising an amount setting section that arbitrarily fixes the amount to be subtracted or added, and the amount fixed by the amount setting section is set according to the distribution state obtained by the obtaining section.

13. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 2, wherein the contents server includes a storing section that stores information on the terminal that received the distribution of the contents from the contents server, a first selecting section that selects a primary terminal based on information stored in the storing section and [an arbitrary] a first reference at the time of executing a synchronous distribution of the contents, and a second selecting section that selects secondary and [afterward] other terminals sequentially based on information stored in the contents server in connection with the selected primary terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 13, wherein the terminal includes a display section, and a screen that receives a desire for a rank of the contents distribution of the primary terminal and/or secondary and [afterward] other terminals and [the] accounting information to be subtracted or added are displayed on the display section.

15. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 2, wherein the contents server includes a storing section that stores information on the terminal that

received the distribution of the contents and information on the distribution state to be associated with each other, a receiving section that receives a terminal that receives a request for distributing the contents in advance at the time of executing a synchronous distribution of the contents, a counting section that counts a plurality of [edit] patterns in connection with the synchronously distributed contents included in the received distribution request, and a deciding section that decides a scale of the distribution including at least primary or secondary and [afterward] other distribution ranges and distribution frequencies of the contents according to the result of the counting section.

16. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 15, wherein the contents distributed from one terminal that received [the] an initial synchronous distribution of the contents can be transmitted to further another terminal according to the passage of a fixed time, and the number of primary terminals selected based on the stored information and [an arbitrary] a first reference is decided according to the edit pattern.

17. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 16, wherein the secondary and [afterward] other terminals are sequentially selected according to the edit pattern in connection with the selected primary terminal.

18. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 17, wherein selection of the terminal is executed from the terminals that applied for the distribution of the contents in advance based on the information stored in the contents server, and at the time of application in advance, at least a desire for a rank of the contents distribution of the primary terminal and/or secondary and [afterward] other terminals is received, and the condition of the distribution is made different according to the rank of the contents distribution of the primary terminal and secondary and [afterward] other terminals.

19. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 18, wherein the terminal includes a display section and the display section includes a section that

receives a desire for a rank of the contents distribution of the primary terminal and/or secondary and [afterward] other terminals.

20. (Original) The contents distribution support system according to claim 18, wherein the terminal uses a storage media having a read-only storage area and a rewritable storage area and subtracts or adds amount information corresponding to amount information stored in a storage area of a prepaid amount that is formed in the rewritable storage area according to the distribution or reception of the contents, and stores the subtracted or added amount information to the storage area of the prepaid amount according to an application program for gaining access to the contents server stored in the read-only storage area via the network.

21. (Currently Amended) The contents distribution support system according to claim 20, wherein the terminal includes a display section, and a screen that receives a desire for a rank of the contents distribution of the primary terminal and/or secondary and [afterward] other terminals and [the] accounting information to be subtracted or added are displayed on the display section.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) The terminal apparatus according to claim 22, wherein apparatus information transmitted by the transmitting section is measuring information on performance of the apparatus that transmits and receives or reproduces the contents or the transmission and reception state.

24. (Withdrawn) The terminal apparatus according to claim 22, wherein user information transmitted by the transmitting section further includes user idea information or limitation information on the download of the contents.

25-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A contents distribution support method that executes a synchronous distribution from a contents server via a network to further allow the contents to be distributed to another terminal from one terminal that received an initial synchronous distribution of the contents according to the passage of a fixed time period, the method comprising the steps of:

storing information on the terminal that received the initial synchronous distribution of the contents and information on the distribution state to be associated with each other;

selecting a primary terminal based on the stored information and an arbitrary reference at the time of executing the synchronous distribution of the contents; and

selecting secondary and afterward terminals based on information stored in the storing section in connection with the selected primary terminal.

31. (Withdrawn) A contents distribution support program that executes a synchronous distribution from a contents server via a network to further allow the contents to be distributed to another terminal from one terminal that received an initial synchronous distribution of the contents according to the passage of a fixed time period, the program executing the steps of:

storing information on the terminal that received the initial synchronous distribution of the contents and information on the distribution state to be associated with each other;

selecting a primary terminal based on the stored information and an arbitrary reference at the time of executing the synchronous distribution of the contents; and

selecting secondary and afterward terminals based on information stored in the storing section in connection with the selected primary terminal.